

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A structural member for use in forming a frame for an architectural structure, comprising:

an elongated load bearing element having a plurality of walls, each of said plurality of walls including an interior surface and an exterior surface;

at least one elongated projection fixedly connected to a central portion of said interior surface of at least one of said plurality of walls; and

an elongated reinforcing insert defining at least one elongated channel that receives the at least one projection when said reinforcing insert is connected to the at least one projection, wherein the at least one projection and the at least one channel, when viewed in cross-section, flare outwardly at a common end thereof.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The structural member of claim 1, wherein the load bearing element has a generally rectangular cross-section.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The structural member of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing insert is made of metal.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The structural member of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing insert defines at least one secondary projection for receiving a secondary reinforcing insert.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A structural member for making an architectural frame, said structural member comprising:

an elongated element having a plurality of walls, each of said plurality of walls including an inner surface and an outer surface;

at least one elongated projection fixedly connected to said outer surface of at least one of said plurality of walls; and

a reinforcement slat defining at least one elongated channel that receives the at least one projection when said reinforcement slat is connected to the at least one projection, wherein the at least one projection and the at least one channel, when viewed in cross-section, flare outwardly at a common end thereof.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The structural member of claim 5, wherein said element has a generally rectangular cross-section

Claim 7 (previously presented): The structural member of claim 5, wherein the reinforcement slat is made of metal.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A support member for use in forming a frame for an architectural structure comprising:

a generally rectangular, hollow, elongated beam having a plurality of walls, each of said plurality of walls including an interior surface and an exterior surface;

a plurality of elongated rails integrally attached to a central region of an interior surface of at least one of the plurality of walls of the beam;

a reinforcing insert having a length coincident with or less than a length of the beam and defining a plurality of elongated channels that receive the plurality of rails when said reinforcing insert is connected to the plurality of rails, wherein each of the rails and each of the channels, when viewed in cross-section, flare outwardly at a common end thereof.

Claim 9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (previously presented): The support member of claim 8, wherein the beam is made of metal.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method of reinforcing a support member that is used to form a frame for an architectural structure, comprising:

providing at least one elongated beam that includes a plurality of interconnected walls, at least one of the plurality of walls including at least one projecting rail integrally connected to a central region of an inside surface thereof;

providing a reinforcing insert defining at least one elongated channel adapted to mate in inter-fitting engagement with said at least one rail, wherein the at least one rail and the at least one channel, when viewed in cross-section, flare outwardly at a common end thereof; and

connecting the insert to the beam by inter-fitting the at least one rail within the at least one channel, the insert being sized and positioned relative to the beam in accordance with engineering calculations which determine the expected distribution of forces along the beam.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, further including the step of incorporating a plurality of such beams into an architectural structure.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein the reinforcing insert is made of metal.

Claim 16 (previously presented): An architectural structure comprising:
a pair of adjacent structural beam members, at least one of the structural beam members including:

an elongated load bearing element having a plurality of walls, each of said plurality of walls including an interior surface and an exterior surface;

at least one elongated projection fixedly connected to said interior surface of at least one of said plurality of walls; and

a reinforcing insert defining at least one elongated channel that receives the at least one projection, wherein the at least one projection and the at least one channel, when viewed in cross-section, flare outwardly at a common end thereof; and

a rectangular strut connected transversely between the pair of adjacent structural beam members, the strut including:

four walls defining an interior space, each wall meeting at a corner intersection, and

a transverse web extending from one corner intersection to a diagonally opposite corner intersection.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The architectural structure of claim 16, wherein the strut is extruded.

Claim 18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (previously presented): The architectural structure of claim 16, wherein the strut is made of metal.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The structural member of claim 1, wherein the at least one projection comprises a plurality of projections, wherein the at least one channel comprises a plurality of channels, and wherein each of the plurality of projections and each of the plurality of channels, when viewed in cross-section, flare outwardly at a common end thereof.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The structural member of claim 5, wherein the at least one projection comprises a plurality of projections, wherein the at least one channel comprises a plurality of channels, and wherein each of the plurality of projections and each of the plurality of channels, when viewed in cross-section, flare outwardly at a common end thereof.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one rail comprises a plurality of rails, wherein the at least one channel comprises a plurality of channels, and wherein each of the plurality of rails and each of the plurality of channels, when viewed in cross-section, flare outwardly at a common end thereof.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A [[The]] method of reinforcing a support member that is used to form a frame for an architectural structure [[claim 13]], wherein the at least one beam includes a pair of adjacent beams, the method further comprising:

providing at least one elongated beam that includes a plurality of interconnected walls, at least one of the plurality of walls including at least one projecting rail integrally connected to an inside surface thereof, the at least one elongated beam including a pair of adjacent beams;

providing a reinforcing insert defining at least one elongated channel adapted to mate in inter-fitting engagement with said at least one rail, wherein the at least one rail and the at least one channel, when viewed in cross-section, flare outwardly at a common end thereof;

connecting the insert to the beam by inter-fitting the at least one rail within the at least one channel, the insert being sized and positioned relative to the beam in accordance with engineering calculations which determine the expected distribution of forces along the beam;

providing a rectangular strut having four walls defining an interior space, each wall meeting at a corner intersection, and a transverse web extending from one corner intersection to a diagonally opposite corner intersection; and

connecting the rectangular strut transversely between the pair of adjacent beams to provide structural support to the pair of adjacent beams.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The architectural structure of claim 16, wherein the at least one projection comprises a plurality of projections, wherein the at least one channel comprises a plurality of channels, and wherein each of the plurality of projections and each of the plurality of channels, when viewed in cross-section, flare outwardly at a common end thereof.